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INCLUSION OF CHINESE AMONG THE WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

INCLUSION OF ARABIC AMONG THE OFFICIAL AND WORKING
LANGUAGES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ITS COMMITTEES
AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Simon BOZANGA (Central African Republic)

1. At its 2144th plenary meeting, on 8 October 1973, the General Assembly included the item entitled "Inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and sub-committees" as item 104 in the agenda of its twenty-eighth session and allocated it to the Fifth Committee for consideration and report.
2. By a letter dated 14 December 1973 (A/C.6/426), the President of the General Assembly transmitted to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee a letter of the same date from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, to which the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee on item 104 was annexed. In that draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide "to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees and to amend accordingly the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly". Referring to the recommendations of the Assembly regarding the methods and procedures for dealing with legal and drafting questions (rules of procedure of the General Assembly, annex II, part 1), the Chairman of the Fifth Committee stated that he was transmitting the draft resolution for any further action which the Sixth Committee might find appropriate.
3. On 14 December, a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.6/L.976) was issued. In this note, after referring to the draft resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee under agenda item 100 (A/9452, para. 6) to amend rules 51 to 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly consequent upon the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Assembly, the Secretary-General suggested further amendments to those rules consequent upon the inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

4. The Sixth Committee considered this item at its 1459th meeting on 17 December. It had before it a draft resolution (A/C.6/L.977) submitted by Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Chad, China, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Republic, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and later joined by Australia, the Niger and Spain. The representative of Iraq, in introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, stated that the draft resolution was a consequence of the recommendation of the Fifth Committee to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees and that the proposed amendments to rules 51 to 59 were a combination of amendments under both agenda items 100 and 104.

5. At the same meeting, the Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution by consensus (see paragraph 6 below). After the decision, the delegation of Israel explained its position.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

6. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the General Assembly and inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees: amendments to rules 51 to 59 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having regard to its decision to include Chinese among the working languages of the General Assembly and to amend accordingly the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the Assembly,

Having regard to its decision to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees and to amend accordingly the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the Assembly,

Having considered the notes by the Secretary-General, 1/

Decides that, with effect from 1 January 1974:

(a) Rules 51 to 59 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly shall be replaced by the following rules:

1/ A/C.6/L.961 and A/C.6/L.976.

VIII. LANGUAGES

Official and working languages

Rule 51

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be both the official and working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and its sub-committees. Arabic shall be both an official and a working language of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

Interpretation

Rule 52

Speeches made in any of the six languages of the General Assembly shall be interpreted into the other five languages, provided that interpretation from and into Arabic shall be made only in the Assembly and in its Main Committees.

Rule 53

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the General Assembly. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the languages of the General Assembly or of the committees concerned. Interpretation into the other languages of the General Assembly or of the committee concerned by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

Language of verbatim and summary records

Rule 54

Verbatim or summary records shall be drawn up as soon as possible in the languages of the General Assembly, provided that such records shall be drawn up in Arabic only for the plenary meetings and the meetings of the Main Committees.

Languages of the Journal

Rule 55

During the sessions of the General Assembly, the Journal of the United Nations shall be published in the languages of the Assembly.

Languages of resolutions and other documents

Rule 56

All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the languages of the General Assembly, provided that publication in Arabic of such documents shall be limited to those of the Assembly and its Main Committees.

Publications in languages other than the languages of the General Assembly

Rule 57

Documents of the General Assembly, its committees and its sub-committees shall, if the Assembly so decides, be published in any language other than the languages of the Assembly or of the committee concerned.

(b) The subsequent rules shall be renumbered accordingly.
